

AA-6M-1

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC THE SMITH HOUSE AT THE PINDELL FARM

AND/OR COMMON

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER North side of Upper Pindell Rd. about a half mile west of its Jct.  
with MD Route 4.

CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

(Pindell) Bristol ☒ VICINITY OF

STATE COUNTY

Maryland Anne Arundel

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. Henry Dixon Telephone #: Unlisted

STREET & NUMBER Upper Pindell

CITY, TOWN STATE, zip code

Bristol ☒ VICINITY OF Maryland

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:  
Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN STATE

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

AA-109

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Today this house stands alone on the old Pindell estate; years ago it was but one of the many structures which constituted the built environment of a plantation community. The main house, which burned about ten years ago, stood atop the knoll about 100 yards across the fields to the South. Another "old" tenant house stood between it and the Smith house on the edge of the fields. Only a few scattered bricks from this house remains, but the Smith brothers, whose family lived in this house for a few years also, said that it was a frame house considerably smaller than the structure still standing, and consisted of two rooms downstairs with an upstairs chamber.

When the Smiths lived in the house under investigation (they moved here in c. 1913), the land surrounding it was completely under cultivation, making the house and the huge oak tree shading it a more striking feature on the horizon, whereas now they blend in with the wooded environment. East of the house the Smiths cultivated a good-sized garden. Their mother and sisters would "can" selected vegetables and "put them up" for the winter.

Except for a few modifications, the house has remained in the condition in which the Smith brothers knew it. It is a one and a half story, hewn frame house with a roof. Brick nogging insulates lower 3-4' of the walls. The siding is of clapboards of different widths on each side, attached by cut nails. The house is three bays in length across the facade and two across the rear. The door, off-centered to the west, is flanked by two windows unevenly spaced. An interesting feature is that the two windows on the front and rear of the east portion of the house have two vertical iron bars; the windows fore and aft on the other section do not. The original frames of the latter have been replaced, so they may have had bars as well. The Smith brothers said that they did not know the function of the bars, whether they were intended to keep people in or out.

The frame is held together by mortised, tenoned, and pegged joints. At the junction of the angle brace, sill, and stud, roman numerals were incised into the sill and stud. Unlike most frames, in which the single studs are evenly spaced, this one has a pair of studs at the midpoint between the center post by the door and the corner post (in addition to other studs). These were probably installed to support the plate between the corner and center post, as it crossed the rather long span. This method of framing is not known to have been found in folk houses in southern Maryland.

The interior of the downstairs is bisected by a thin plank partition; the eastern half is in turn bisected, making a total of three rooms. The open hearth on the west gable end has been boarded over and a wood stove installed. This wood stove was present when the Smiths moved in. They used it for cooking, and it was the only source of heat. A wide based brick chimney ascended the west gable end, not the narrow stove flue that is present today.

A narrow, steep enclosed stairway in the northeast corner of the downstairs west room ascends to the west room of the upstairs chambers. The open stairwell is guarded by a plank railing, a feature found not infrequently in folk houses. The upstairs is divided into two rooms by a partition that is original. When the Smiths lived here, the parents slept in the southeast room below, the three daughters in the adjacent northwest room, and the five boys in the room upstairs. The west room upstairs, interestingly enough, was unoccupied. It was used by Mrs. Smith to iron clothes and to hang them to dry during inclement weather. Otherwise, it was unused. This suggests that the bedroom was not

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The design and construction materials suggest that this house was built in the mid 19th century. In addition, its size and construction are unlike those of other slave houses and point to its having been built as the residence of an overseer. Freedmen after the Civil War could however have built it as their home. Research of written records is therefore recommended in hopes of fixing a more accurate date and determining its original usage. Attention also ought to be paid to folk houses with similar features (brick nogging, paired studs, boxed gable cornices, and window bars), to gain a sample of how common their usage was.

Furthermore, more oral interviews with William and Arthur Smith are recommended. William Smith, the older brother (now 78 years old), made his career as a tobacco farmer, most of it as a tenant, and is intimately acquainted with the old ways of farming. He is now a small land-owner. His younger brother Arthur left the farm to work on the railroad, the Chesapeake Bay Beach Railroad in particular. A valuable study would be achieved if a local historian or social scientist would further investigate the lives of these two men and others like them (they have friends who divided along the same careers), and for example, compare the economic and social mobility proffered by each career as well as the motivations and world views of the participants at the beginning and end of their careers. Also intriguing is that they have remained in rural southern Maryland, near their place of birth, and did not follow the star to the cities. For those engaged in studies of farming, railroads, houses, race relations, or folk medicine in Maryland, these elderly brothers are valuable informants. In sum, investigations of these men and of the many other like them could yield invaluable insights into the rural black experience in southern Maryland and provide an example for similar studies elsewhere before it is too late.

Informants: Mr. William Smith, Dunkirk, Maryland - 301-257-2578  
 Mr. Arthur Smith, Upper Marlboro, Maryland - 301-627-5582

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

George McDaniel

2/76

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Maryland Commission on Afro-American and Indian History and Culture

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

12 West Madison Street

301-383-3618

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Baltimore

Md.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

## THE SMITH HOUSE AT THE PINDELL FARM

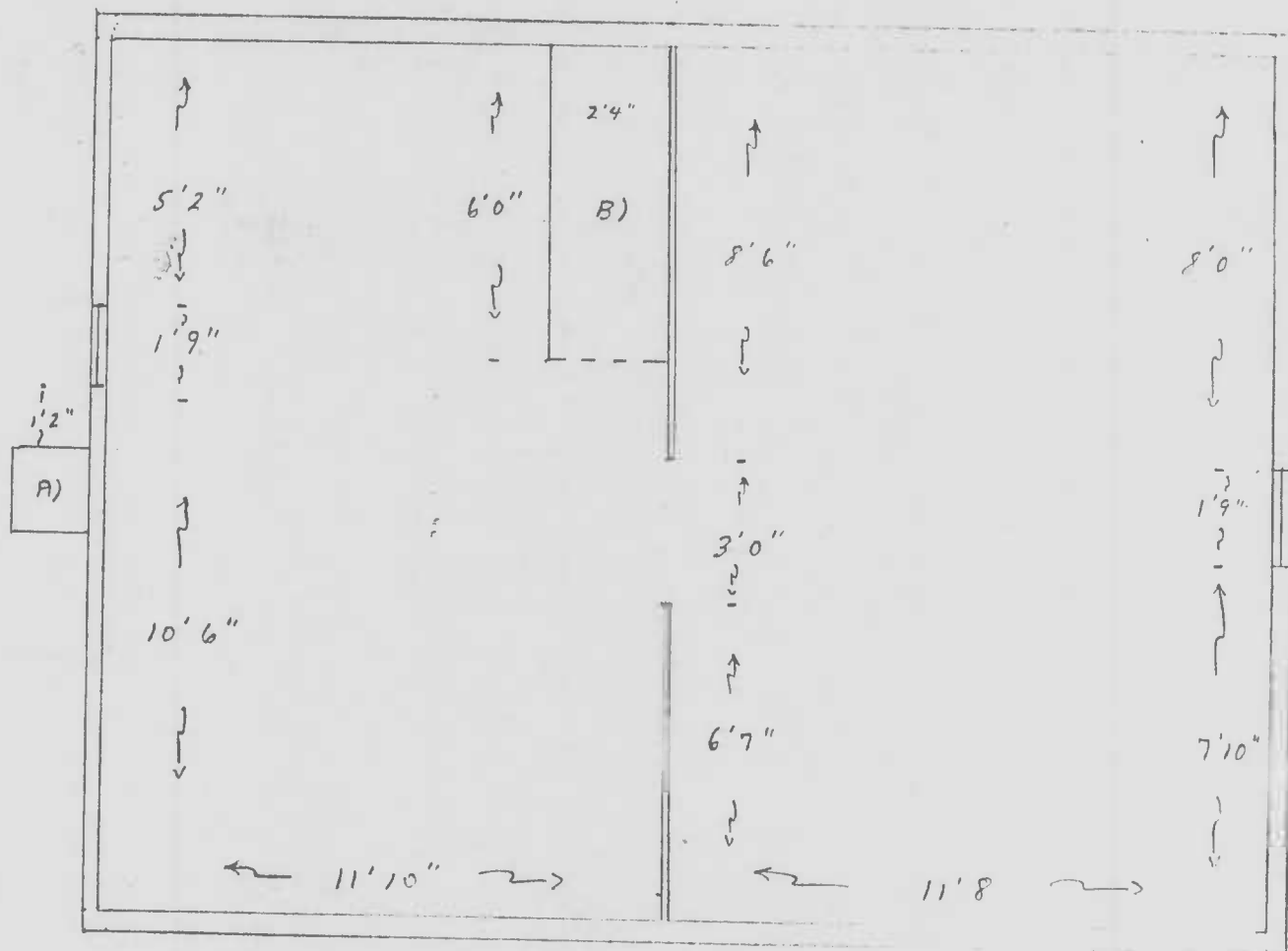
## DESCRIPTION (CONT.)

perceived by these young people as a individual domain needed for "privacy", work activities, or leisure time, as a bedroom is commonly perceived today. Instead, (at least for this family), the bedroom was used only as a bedroom, a room for sleeping. The other activities, whether individual or group, took place elsewhere. Moreover, there was no heat in the upstairs, making it uncomfortable during the colder months, for anything other than getting under the quilts and going to sleep. The door now present, though hung from old hinges, was not present during the Smiths' tenancy (c.1913-c.1930), according to the Smith brothers.

All four sides of the house have boxed cornices, even the gable ends, a feature not found in most slave/tenant houses. Blocks of wood overlap the gable rafters, one end protruding into the interior, the other to the outside. These are spaced about 3 feet apart down the gable rafters. The bottom board of the boxed cornice is nailed to the exterior ends. Most of the rafters of the roof are replacements, though installed before the Smiths moved in.

The wood shingled roof has gaping holes in it, which will hasten the eventual collapse of the house.

# PINDELL PLACE WICHITA, KANSAS

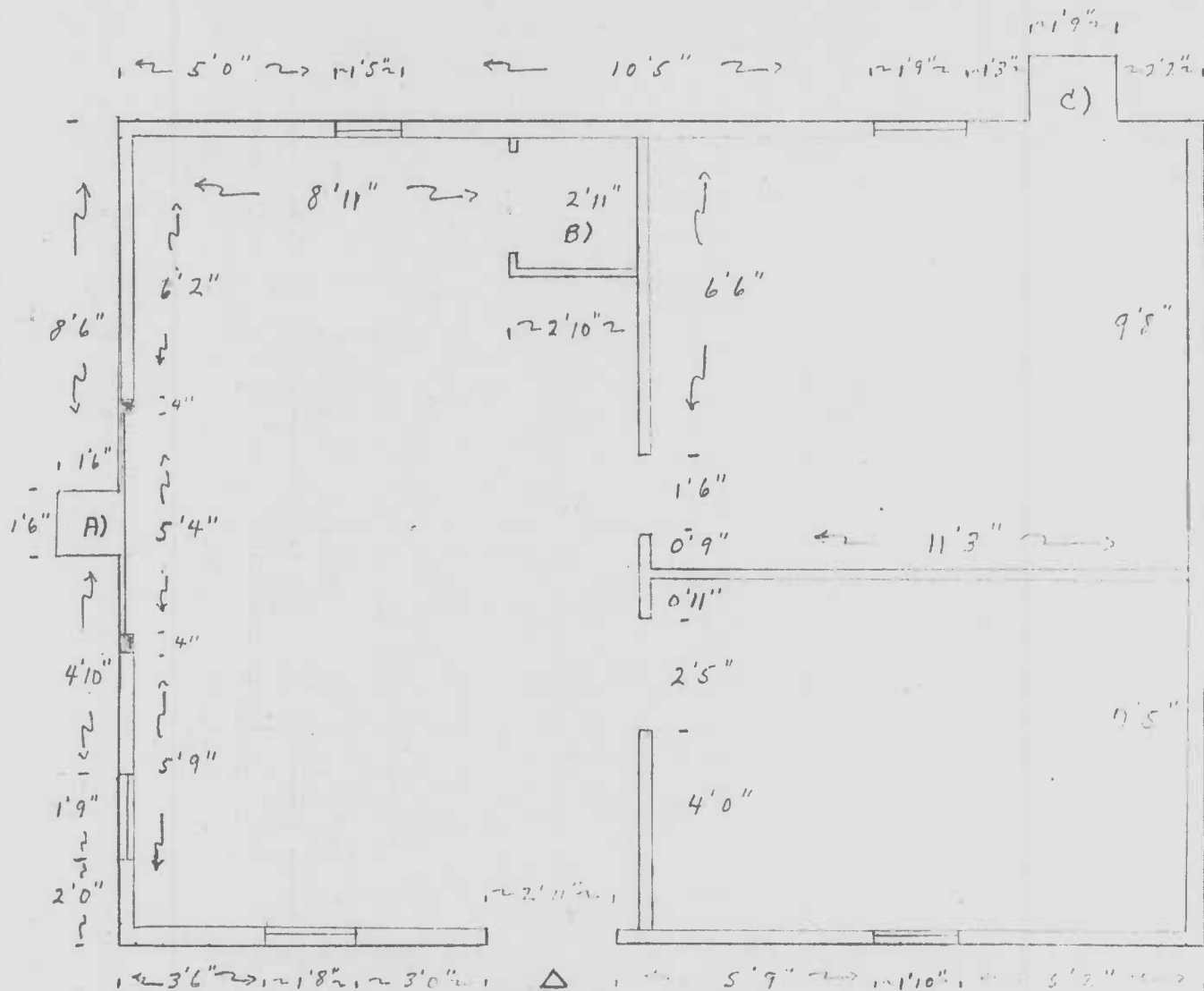


SEE A) & B)  
ON BACK

AA-109

4. STOVE REMOVED. NO EVIDENCE OF AN OPENING  
IN WALL FOR A STOVE PIPE, OR OF AN  
ORIGINAL HEARTH. THUS, UPSTAIRS HAS  
NO HEATING.

5) OPEN STAIRWELL.



SEE A), B), + C)  
ON BACK

PINDALL PLACE  
GROUND FLOOR

AR-109



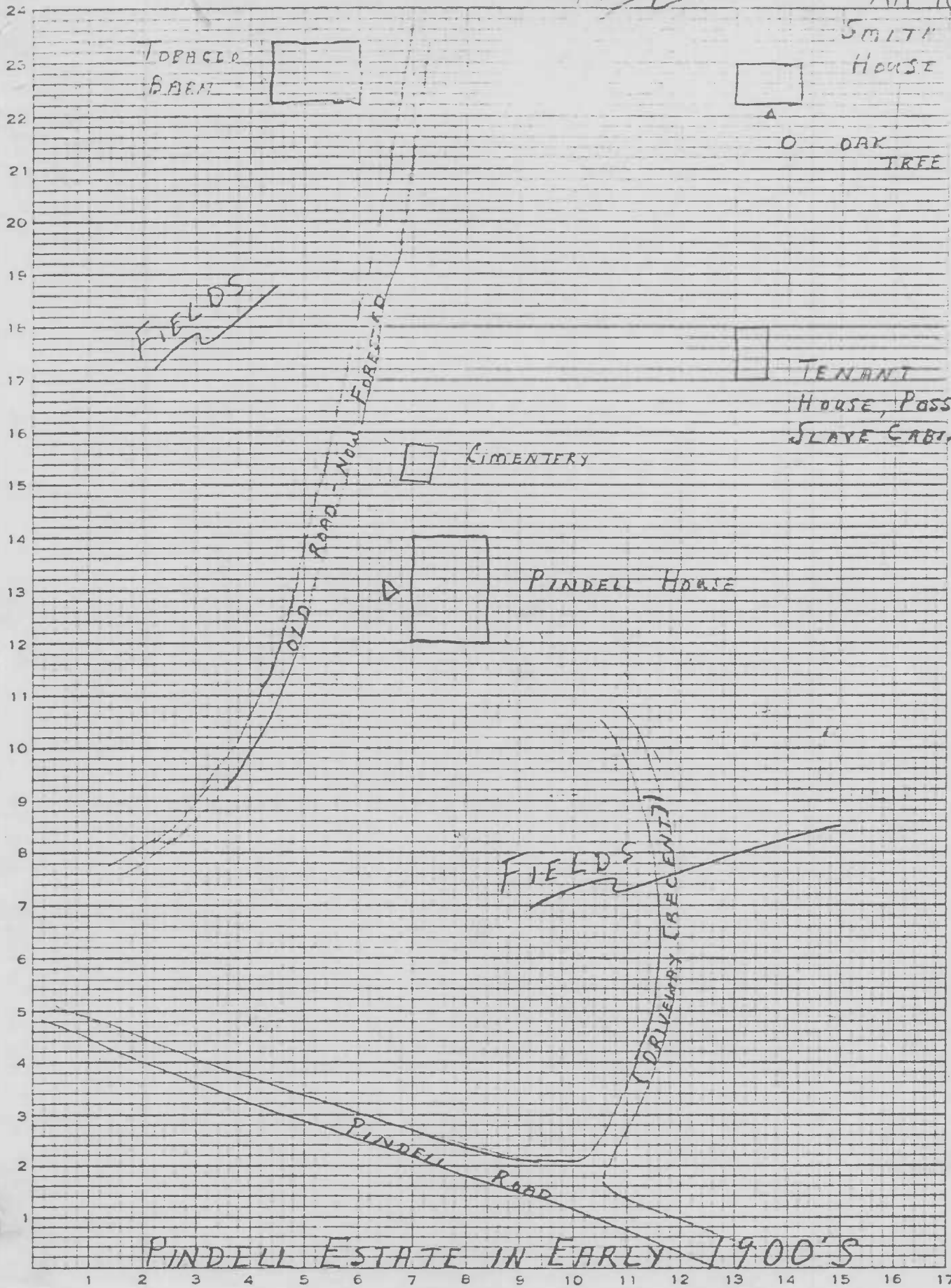
A) THE ORIGINAL CHIMNEY HAS BEEN REPLACED BY A SMALLER ONE FOR A WOOD STOVE, AND THE FIREPLACE HAS BEEN BOARDED OVER. THE ORIGINAL MANTLE POSTS ARE VISIBLE AND ARE INDICATED AS "B" BY THE FIREPLACES.

B) ENCLOSED STAIRWAY TO THE UPSTAIRS.

C) CHIMNEY ADDITION FOR WOOD STOVE IN THE KITCHEN. NO ORIGINAL HEARTH.

FIELDS

AA-109







Smith House at the  
Pondell Farm

AA - GM - 1

Barn

2176

MHT, Annapolis

West. Elevation



South House at  
the Pindell Farm

AA-GM-1

GWM

2/76

M#7, Annapolis

Window with bars on  
facade (north)